

Appl. No. : 10/722,990
Filed : November 26, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 10 are amended. Claims 6 and 10 are amended to recite particular elements of the hydrofluoric acid concentrator. Support for the amendment is found in the specification, for example, at page 9, line 10, through page 10, line 10. The amendments to Claims 6 and 10 do not add new matter.

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11 are allowed, and Claims 6 and 10 are rejected.

Rejection of Claims 6 and 10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 6 and 10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chlanda *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 3,787,304). The Office Action states that Claims 6 and 10 are anticipated by Chlanda because Chlanda discloses vapors from an HF-producing evaporator passing through a line communicating with devices for contacting with water and alkali material.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 6 and 10, as amended, recite, *inter alia*, a hydrofluoric acid concentrator for concentrating hydrofluoric acid wastewater by evaporation to produce a concentrated hydrofluoric acid water and a hydrofluoric acid-containing vapor, the hydrofluoric acid concentrator comprising a heating unit for heating hydrofluoric acid wastewater and nozzles that spray the heated hydrofluoric acid wastewater under reduced pressure, and the hydrofluoric acid concentrator having corrosion resistance to concentrated hydrofluoric acid water. Applicants teach that this configuration can be used to produce concentrated hydrofluoric acid water by concentrating hydrofluoric acid wastewater via evaporation.

In contrast, Chlanda is directed to a device for treating by-products of phosphate rock treatment to produce hydrogen fluoride. See *Chlanda* at column 1, lines 14-18 and 35-42. Chlanda's first step in the process is to dissolve hydrogen fluoride-containing vapor in solution, and this solution is treated with a potassium hydroxide/postassium fluoride mixture and SiO₂ to precipitate the fluorine as potassium fluosilicate, which is then treated in subsequent steps. See *Chlanda* at column 2, lines 29-64. Chlanda provides no hydrofluoric acid concentrator consistent with that claimed by Applicants; as such, Chlanda does not anticipate the claims. Further, Chlanda

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teaches recovery of fluorine by precipitation as potassium fluosilicate, not by concentrating hydrofluoric acid-containing water via evaporation. Thus, there is no reason provided by Chlanda to modify the device taught by Chlanda in such a manner as to arrive at Applicants' claimed device containing the recited hydrofluoric acid concentrator for concentrating hydrofluoric acid wastewater by evaporation. Accordingly, Applicants' claimed device also is non-obvious over Chlanda.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 6 and 10, as amended, are patentable over the disclosures of Chlanda.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's foregoing Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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